

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 COME-00 IO-14 OMB-01

TRSE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 H-03

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 220447Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5380

COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM

CDRKMR MI

US MISSION NEW YORK 574

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SUVA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 8667

PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN ACTION

PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA INFO

COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

STATE FOR EA/ANP, IO/UNP

DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA

CDRKMR FOR COL RUSSELL

USUN FOR AMB WHITE

AMEMBASSIES CANBERRA, TOKYO, WELLINGTON FOR POL

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI PASS STATUS LNO SAIPAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT: NAURU'S INTEREST IN MICRONESIA

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REF: STATE 128198

FROM: FSO MARY VANCE TRENT

1. IN LINE WITH REFTEL I DISCUSSED ABOVE SUBJECT DURING VISIT TO NAURU JULY 8-12. VISIT INCLUDED CALL ON PRESIDENT DEROBURT AND SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SADARAKA (WHO IS ALSO CHIEF SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT), BRIEF MEETINGS WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER CRUSE, AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOLLOWING A SESSION WHICH I ATTENDED. THERE WAS OPPORTUNITY FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SELLARS AND THIRD SECRETARY HART WHO WERE EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND CORDIAL IN ALL ASPECTS OF VISIT INCLUDING GENEROUS HOSPITALITY AND INTRODUCTION TO WIDE RANGE OF NAURUANS AND EXPATRIATES. NAURUAN GOVERNMENT ALSO FACILITATED AS NECESSARY INCLUDING PROVISION OF CAR FOR MY USE.

2. DISCUSSIONS CONFIRMED CLOSE FEELINGS OF AFFINITY ON PART OF NAURUANS FOR THEIR MARSHALLESE KIN FOLK BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERALLY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OR INTEREST CONCERNING REST OF MICRONESIA WITH EXCEPTION OF KUSAIE WHERE, IT WAS STRESSED, NAURUANS ALSO HAVE FAMILY TIES. (MRS. DEROBURT TOLD ME SHE HAD VISITED KUSAIE NOT LONG AGO AS PASSENGER ON NAURUAN SHIP.) AS FOR SAIPAN AND MARIANAS FEW SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT OR WHERE THEY ARE. THERE IS UNFAVORABLE RECOLLECTION OF TRUKAS ISLAND TO WHICH JAPANESE TOOK 1500 NAURUANS DURING WWII FOR LABOR FORCE. AMONG GROUP WERE PRESENT GOV. LEADERS INCLUDING PRESIDENT WHO TOLD ME US NAVY REPATRIATED THEM JANUARY 1946.

3. PRESIDENT OF COURSE IS FULLY AWARE AND CLEARLY MUCH INTERESTED IN MICRONESIA BUT HE WAS CLOSE-MOUTHED ON SPECIFICS OF HIS INTEREST. WHEN I MENTIONED MARSHALLESE CONNECTIONS, HE QUICKLY ADDED "AND ALL MICRONESIA" AND MENTIONED CLOSE NAURUAN RELATIONSHIP WITH KUSAIE. HE WAS NOT FORTHCOMING IN RESPONSE TO MY OPENING WAY FOR ANY DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS OR PERSONS IN TT, ESPECIALLY MARSHALLS, WITH WHOM HE IS WORKING. SADARAKA WAS EQUALLY UNRESPONSIVE ON SUBJECT ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED IN PASSING SOME NAURUAN

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INTEREST IN A NEW HOTEL ON MAJURO.

4. FROM OTHER SOURCES IT WAS HOWEVER POSSIBLE TO PIECE TOGETHER SOME SKETCHY INFORMATION GENERALLY CONFIRMING EARLIER REPORTS OF NAURUAN INVESTMENT IN THE MARSHALLS AND THE CHANNEL OF SUCH INVESTMENT THROUGH SENATOR AMATA KABUA AND HIS SEPARATIST-INCLINED FRIENDS. AUSTRALIAN HICOM SELLARS CONFIRMED TRIP TO NAURU SEVERAL WEEKS AGO

BY AMATA AND MARSHALLESE GROUP. SELLARS SAID VISITORS LAY VERY LOW AND AMATA EVADED HIS QUERY AS TO PURPOSE THEIR VISIT.

5. ON NAURU DURING MY VISIT WAS MR. ROBERT R. HARRYMAN, GUAM-BASED ARCHITECT-ENGINEER OF OAKLAND (CALIF) FORM MACKINLAY, WINNACKER MCNEIL AND ASSOCIATES, WHICH HAS CONTRACT WITH GON FOR HOTEL EXPANSION AND DESIGN FOR CIVIC CENTER ON NAURU. (CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT HAS GONE TO PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION CO. OF GUAM). HARRY MAN TOLD ME HIS FIRM ALSO IS READY TO GO ON CONSTRUCTION OF A NAURUAN FINANCED HOTEL TO BE BUILT ON MAJURO, BUT PROBLEMS OF LAND ACQUISITION ARE DELAYING THE PROJECT. HE DESCRIBED THE SITE AS BEING ON THE LAGOON SIDE OF THE ATOOL BETWEEN THE PRESENT EASTERN GATEWAY HOTEL AND THE AIRPORT. HARRYMAN CONFIRMED THE NAURUAN LOAN OF \$600,000 TO FINANCE THE MAJURO HARBOR PROJECT. HE SAID HIS FIRM WILL SUBMIT A BID AND HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MARSHALLS DISTRICT PLANNER AND PUBLIC WORKS ON THIS SUBJECT. (ON MAJURO SUBSEQUENT TO MY CABLE SENT FROM THERE VIA CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI JULY 8, DISTAD DEBRUM TOLD ME NAURUAN TERMS WERE "VERY FAVORABLE TO US" BUT DECLINED TO BE SPECIFIC.) HARRYMAN SAID GON IS INTERESTED IN SOME PROJECT IN PONAI, BUT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT. (NAURU IS ALREADY A PARTICIPANT IN BIDDING FOR CONCESSION AT NEW SAIPAN AIRPORT.)

6. WHILE NATURE AND EXTENT OF NAURUAN INVESTMENT PLANS IN MICRONESIA SEEM SOMEWHAT SHADOWY AND HARD TO PIN DOWN, DUE PROBABLY TO POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR MAJOR INTEREST IN THE MARSHALLS, NAURU'S AIR AND SHIPPING INTEREST IN MICRONESIA IS QUITE CLEAR. THE PRESIDENT REFERRED RATHER CIRCUMSPECTLY TO AIR NAURU'S ROUTE THROUGH TT TO JAPAN, AND SADARAKA (WHOM I HAD KNOWN IN COOK ISLANDS FROM WHICH

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HE COMES) BOLDLY SAID AIR NAURU "WOULD DEARLY LOVE" TO GET INTO TT. CONSIDERING AIR NAURU'S NEW ROUTE OPENED THIS WEEK TO APIA, PASSENGER RIGHTS IN TT, HE COMMENTED, WOULD MEAN CLEAR ROUTE FROM JAPAN THROUGH TT TO ALL OF SOUTH PACIFIC. SADARAKA STRESSED THAT NAURU IS NOT INTERESTED IN TOURISM AS SUCH ON THE ISLAND, BUT WANTS TO BE CARRIER OF TOURISTS THROUGHOUT THE AREA. NAURUAN HONORAY CONSUL ON GUAM MARTIN PRAY, ALSO ON NAURU AT TIME, TOLD ME AIR NAURU WOULD LIKE TO OPEN GUAM-PORT MORESBY ROUTE AND HAS HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH PAULAUANS ON FEASIBILITY KOROR-MORESBY ROUTE.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 COME-00 IO-14 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-20 SP-03 PM-07 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /098 W  
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R 220447Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5381

COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM

CDRKMRI MI

US MISSION NEW YORK 575

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SUVA UNN

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7. AIR NAURU HAS JUST ACQUIRED A SECOND F-28 PLANE AND THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO AND FROM APIA - MARKED BY A PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION FOR SAMOAN GUESTS -TOOK PLACE JULY 11 DURING MY VISIT. THE AUSTRALIANS COMMENTED THAT NEW ROUTE, LIKE PRESENT ONE, WILL BE HIGHLY UNECONOMICAL BUT THEY NOTED THAT UNDER CONTINUING PHOSPHATE PROSPERITY THIS DOESN'T TROUBLE THE PRESIDENT. HE WEARS ALL THE HATS OF AUTHORITY AND APPEARS TO HAVE SOMEWHAT GRANDIOSE IDEAS OF ESTABLISHING HIS PRESTIGE IN THE PACIFIC. UNLIKE MANY SO INCLINED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, HE CAN PAY THE ATTENDANT BILLS. (WHILE I WAS THERE, AIR NAURU FLIGHT FROM KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN BROUGHT SOME 20 REPRESENTATIVES OF JAL, NIPPON AIRWAYS AND JAPANESE TRAVEL BUREAUS AS  
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PRESIDENT'S GUESTS TO EXPERIENCE AIR NAURU SERVICE AND ROUTING.)

8. WHILE LESS WAS SAID ABOUT NAURUAN SHIPPING, IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS AMBITIOUS IDEAS FOR HIS FLEET OF SIX CARGO SHIPS. APPARENTLY HE HAS ONE-YEAR TRIAL FRANCHISE FOR WEST COAST -MAJURO-TRUK-GUAM ROUTE, TO WHICH MARSHALLS DISTAD DE BRUM (AND SUBSEQUENTLY REP. DOMNICK) REFERRED WITH SATISFACTION. IMPLICATION IS THAT HE WOULD LIKE MORE ROUTES IN TT.

9. ON MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR RATHER FULL BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT, SADARAKA, AND SELLARS/HART. PRESIDENT LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS AS TO TIMING ON MICRO (JCFS) NEGOTIATIONS AND COMMENTED ONLY THAT SUBJECT WAS "VERY COMPLICATED." I REFERRED TO AMB. WILLIAMS' MAY 16 STATEMENT EXPRESSING HOPE THAT MARSHALLS AND CAROLINES WOULD WORK OUT DESTINY TOGETHER AND THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WOULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DETERMINING INTER-DISTRICT RELATIONSHIPS IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT. HE NODDED BUT HAD NO COMMENT. (COMMENT: THIS WAS REMINISCENT OF SIMILAR REACTION IN MARSHALLS WHERE THERE SEEMED LITTLE PREVIOUS AWARENESS OF STATEMENT WHEN I REFERRED TO IT).

10. SADARAKA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO HOLD DISPARATE GROUPS TOGETHER. HE WAS SURPRISED AT MICRONESIAN INSISTENCE ON UNILATERAL TERMINATION PROVISION IN DRAFT COMPACT. HE WONDERED IF MICRONESIA SHOULDN'T FEAR US PULL-OUT UNDER PROVISION AND OBSERVED THAT COOK ISLANDS HAVE SAFEGUARDS BUILT INTO THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW ZEALAND ON THIS POINT. HE COMMENTED: "WE ENJOY THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS WITH NEW ZEALAND FOOTING THE BILL."

11. SELLARS WAS INTERESTED IN ALL DETAILS OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND PROSPECTS AND I PROVIDED RUNDOWNS OF TWO SETS OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASKED ABOUT TIMING ON JCFS SCHEDULE AND WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR SALI'S SUGGESTED TIMETABLE WHICH WAS CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN HE HAD ENVISAGED. HE REMARKED THAT PERHAPS MICRONESIA LIKE PNG

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WAS HAVING QUALMS ABOUT LESSENING TIMES WITH ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.

12. SELLARS REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO AUSTRALIA'S GROWING INTEREST

IN PACIFIC AND REMARKED THAT MICRONESIA IS "OUR NEXT BUT ONE NORTHERN NEIGHBOR." HE ASKED WHERE CAPITAL OF MICRONESIA (SANS MARIANAS) LIKELY TO BE AND SAID HE HAD ALREADY ALERTED CANBERRA TO DISIRABILITY OF STATIONING SOME TYPE OF REPRESENTATION THERE. HE AND HART ARE EMBARKING OVER NEXT MONTH ON TWO SEPARATE TRIPS TO TT (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED) IN WHICH SELLARS WILL VISIT YAP AND PALAU. HART WILL VISIT TRUK, PONAPE AND MARSHALLS, AND BOTH WILL BE ON SAIPAN. AT THEIR REQUEST, I PROVIDED LIST OF NAMES FOR LIKELY APPOINTMENTS IN DISTRICTS BEING ARRANGED THROUGH STATUS LNO SAIPAN. SELLARS COMMENTED THAT VISITS WOULD SHOW AUSTRALIAN INTEREST AND POSITION IN THE PACIFIC.

13. SELLARS MENTIONED GRANTS FOR 3-WEEK TRAVEL/STUDY TOUR IN AUSTRALIA WHICH AUSTRALIAN GOVT PLANS OFFER TO REP RESIO MOSES OF PONAPE AND SE. WILFRED KENDALL OF MARSHALLS. DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT MESSAGE ON MOSES (KENDALL OFFER WAS NEW TO ME) I SAID THERE WAS NO OBJECTION BUT IN VIEW OF DEPARTMENT'S OWN IV GRANT PROGRAM WE WOULD APPRECIATE CHANCE DISCUSS ANY FUTURE NOMINATIONS WITH GOA. SELLARS APPEARED UNDERSTAND BUT SAID TT HICOM HAD SUGGESTED NAMES OF MOSES AND KENDALL TO HIM WHICH SUBJECT DISCUSSED WITHIN SAIPAN SOME MONTHS AGO. (COMMENT: SUGGEST CLOSE COORDINATION ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.)

14. FOLLOWING POINTS THAT AROSE DURING DISCUSSIONS ON NAURU ARE OF MORE GENERAL NATURE:

A. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD "WITH GREAT EXPECTATION" TO VISIT OF AMB GREEN TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS. HE MENTIONED THAT AN OCTOBER DATE HAD BEENWORKED OUT AND SHOWED MUCH PLEASURE AT THE PROSPECT. I RESPONDED IN LINE WITH INSTRUCTIONS (CANBERRA 3778).

B. PRESIDENT WAS JUBILANT IN HIS QUIET WAY ABOUT HIGH PRICE  
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OF PHOSPHATE. SO ALSO IS BOARD OF NAURU PHOSPHATE CORPORATION (NPC) WHICH WAS NEETING ON ISLAND DURING MY VISIT. GENERAL MANAGER ADAMS OF THIS NOW NAURUAN-OWNED CORPORATION ARRANGED TOUR OF FIELDS AND PROCESSING PLANT. GROWING AREA OF DEAD WORKED-OVER FIELDS CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS NIGHTMARISH. LABOR IS MOSTLY GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDERS AND HONG KONG CHINESE WITH RESULTANT SEPARATE COMMUNITIES. SMALL NAURU'S 6000 POPULATION MUST LIVE ON RIM OF 12-MILE CIRCUMFERENTIAL ISLAND WHILE INTERIOR IS DUG OUT AND SHIPPED TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, AND PERHAPS SOON TO INDIA AS WELL. REMAINING LIFE OF PHOSPHATE FIELDS WAS VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT 8-20 YEARS.

MEANTIME, NAURUANS SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST THEIR INCOME.

C. NAURU LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING SPC IN SEPTEMBER 1975 AND IS PLANNING HOTEL EXPANSION FOR THAT DATE. PRESIDENT'S PENCHANT FOR PRESTIGE IN THE PACIFIC WAS DEMONSTRATED DURING MY VISIT WHEN HE DISPATCHED SPECIAL AIR NAURU FLIGHT TO PICK UP CHIEF MINISTER OF GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS WHO HAD BEEN STRANDED BY AIR PACIFIC ON SCHEDULED OFFICIAL VISIT TO NAURU.

15. AT AIRPORT AS I WAS DEPARTING FOR HONIARA ON AIR NAURU, REP. CHARLES DOMNICK, JUST ARRIVED FROM MAJURO, GREETED ME. HE SAID HE HAS COME DOWN ON BUSINESS CONCERNED WITH SHIPPING. IN BRIEF CHAT HE SAID HE WOULD BE GOING SOON TO SAIPAN FOR CONGRESS SESSION, ADDING "WE'LL ALL BE THERE TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY." THEN HE DISAPPEARED IN COMPANY WITH A TRIO THAT APPEARED TO BE A CHINESE, AND AUSTRALIAN AND A NAURUAN - CONTACTS WHICH SEEMED TO SYMBOLIZE MARSHALLESE PROBES INTO WIDER FIELDS.

16. COMMENT: DISCUSSIONS DURING SHORT STAY ON NAURU CONFIRM INDICATIONS THAT NAURU IS ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN MICRONESIA, ESPECIALLY MARSHALLS, AS AREA OF ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND THAT THIS INTEREST FITS HANDILY INTO MARSHALLESE ECONOMIC AMBITIONS AND POLITICAL RESTIVENESS. CLOSENESS OF BOTH KINSHIP AND GEOGRAPHY, AND CONDITIONS OF HAVE/HAVE-NOT IN TERMS OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TEND TO FOSTER THIS RELATIONSHIP. THOSE INVOLVED ON BOTH SIDES APPEAR TOTALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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UNCONCERNED WITH TT REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. WHILE NAURUAN INVESTMENT MAY PROVE HELPFUL FROM TT POINT OF VIEW, IT SEEMS NECESSARY THAT EFFORT BE MADE ON US PART TO BRING IT INTO PROPER CHANNEL. OPERATING IN PRESIDENT UNCONTROLLED FASHION, IT SERVES TO ENCOURAGE IF NOT UNDERWRITE MARSHALLESE SEPARATISM. SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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